

[The Irish Sweepstakes]

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COMMENTS

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5/31/39 [Section 6?]

The Irish Sweepstakes

Mr. Hughes answered my ring and smilingly bid me enter. Mrs. Hughes greeted me also and pointed to an easy chair. Copy - 1

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"Have a seat fir yourself ", , " she said genially. Her face lightened when I admired the fresh lace curtains she had just hung in the living room.

"I thenk the best wiyay ta dry 'em is on thim new two rod stretchers," she told me. "Come raight on out hiere an' see how good thiey hang on thet. Tain't laike the old stretchers atall. Thiey usta tear holes in the curtains, (curtains) ya know. But these don't atall. An' ya only heveta iron the hems. [?]

"Ain't it a wonder though, how much asier wark is fir a woman ta what it usta ba. Ya kin hardly belave how asy it is ta do curtains this wiyay. Thim two rod curtains stretchers aire great thengs all raight."

But Mr. Hughes was not interested in such mundane things as curtain stretchers.

"How ya bein sence?" he asked. "Come raight in the livin' room an' set down." He was reading an article about the Irish Sweepstakes and pointed it out to me.

"Thim sweepstakes" he [Uncle Jimmie] said, [pointing to an article in the paper?] "aire great thengs fir Ireland now. Thier're held in the city a Dublin, ya know an' 2 thiey miake a barrel a money on thim. An' I [?] it's a good theng in Ireland. Piart a the all thet money goes ta hospitals ya know an' what better place could money go thet was miade on horse races.

"But it don't rally play ta bet on it, fir it's a million chances against ya thet ya won't get nothin'. A woman in Lynn got thet bag prize once though. Da ya remimber? An' another tame a fella from Salem got a pratty good prize.

"But at thet it don't rally pay ya. Fir aven if ya do get it, the government 'll tiake the half a it awiay from ya[.?] I bought a ticket a couple tames but I don't no more. It don't play. " Nothin' plays much tadiay. Why aven if ya got some money in the benk (bank) ya don't get much antrist [?] fir it. No thiere's Thiere's nothin much in dry money tadiay.

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"But worse'n dry money is money thet ya got tied up in rale (real) estate. Usta ba, ya'd get a good income from thet. But tadiay thiere's nothin' atall in it, fir you're laike as not get some one in thet don't piay thier rint, an' ya hate laike hell ta put 'em out on the strate (street) fir ya know they'd ba good tinents [(tenants)?] if they hed the money ta piay ya. [/e /c. ?]

"First theng ya know ya get behin' with your taxes an' the benk comes along an' tiakes thet house. Why the benks got mosta the houses in Lynn tadiay. Thiey got so many they don't know what ta do with thim. Thiey'd unload 'em if 3 thiey could, but thiere're ain't nobody ta buy em.

"An' all the tame thiey're gettin' more. The private fellas thet owned 'em cain't fix em up, 'cause it costs too much an' thiey don't know's thiey'll get a good tinent ta piay 'em.

"The benks now, thiey jest hire a carpenter, an' electric laight man, an' plumber ta tiake care a all their houses an' thet wiay it don't cost 'em sa much. An' thiey get all the good payin' tinents 'cause the paople all know bafore thiey move inta a bank benk house, thet thiey gotta get out, if thiey don't piay. [?]

"Benks is good ta kape a house fixed up, all raight, but thiey put ya raight out on the strate (street) if ya don't piay.

" Before Bafore the slap come in 1929 though, rale estate wuz a good investment investmint . I knowed a fella owned a whole bag block an' he hed it fixed in apartmints. Thet miade a good income. He wuz offered \$25,000 fir it but he won't wun't tiake it. Thin along come thet slap in '29, and thin he wished he hed. He's broke tadiay I guess, cause he can't get his rint, an' he can't afford ta kape the place up. I guess he wishes he had hed took thet \$25,000 after all. Aven if he din't get sech good antrist fir the dry money in the benk[. ?] " Somethin' is better'n nothin'. 4 Ireland in the Spring. Run in with copy on page 8, Section 4.

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"Do you ever get homesick for Ireland now?" I asked Mr. Hughes one day. [?]

"Well, no, I guess I don't raley. I bin awaiy from thiery too miny years. [?] " I guess if I wint back tadiay it would be jest the same as if I niver wuz thiery atall fir thiery wun't be none I'd know inymore. But I'd know all the old / /hants (haunts) jest the same. They don't change much.

"I'd see the same blossoms on the [tras?] [(treas?)] now an' wun't it ba a pratty sight. An' the grass gress 'ould ba very green an' the winter wheat 'ould ba acomin' up now. An' thiery'd ba the potato fields. /trays (?)

"An' the flax! I suppose it'd still look rale nice with the wind ablowin' it in waves laike over the fields! An' soon the wind 'ould ba ablowin' the wheat fields too. [?] Thet Thet's a pratty sight, whin the wheat is almost ripe an' ready ta cut?

"An' all the birds! I usta ba pratty fond a birds an' they They hed a lotta diffrent kands whiere I come from. Thiery wuz the sparrow an' the swallow an' the meadowlark an' a lotta others. They hed a thrush thet sang nice. An' thiery wuz the [cucco?] an' the jenny wren an' the gray linnet an' the bullfinch.

"They hed a nice robin too but he wuzn't sa bag laike he is hiere. But prattier thin him was the [goldfinch?] with the red head. I usta ketch him, fir he wuz sech a nice singer.

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An' thin I'd sell thim goldfinces goldfinches thet I cought an' the canaries I'd raise. Sometimes I'd get as much as fieve dollars fir a male bird.

"The wiy ta ketch goldfinches is ta lie down near a white thorn bush an' set a trap fir thim with a branch miade all sticky with flax oil. They'd get in thet branch ta get the flaxseed an' thin they cain't get out. Miny's the one I cought while I laid a waitin' fir thim[,?] an' I made some by a white thorn bush money outa thim. Thin male birds wuz good singers, all raight.

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But the fmales females , now thiey wun't sing atall, an' she niver looked sa nice neither. The male birds wuz the one ta ketch. [?]

"We usta heve a lotta cranes too. Thet's a nice lookin' bird with his long legs.

" [?] it ' 'ould ba good ta see Ireland[,?] I guess. But jest the same, it 'ould probably look laiike a place whiere I'd niver bin atall[,?] if I was ta go [? ?]. Maybe it's better jest ta thenk about it laiike it wuz whin I wuz i bioy thiere alivin with ma mother an' ma uncles. If I wint it maight tiake awiaiy foriver the nice picture I heve a it in ma mind. An' if I don't niver go back this picture'll stiaiy thiere 'till I die[.?] Thet'll ba [nice?]. 6 [Mussolini?]

"A lotta folks don't laiike Mussolini an' indade I don't, but ya know jest the same he's done some thengs thet needed ta ba done fir Italy biad. He claned (cleaned) up a lotta thengs thet shoulda bin claned up, all right.

"Fir instunce he stiarted a mate (meat) inspection, an' saw thet thim Italians got the raight kand a mate ta eat.

"An' sence he come, ya can't raise the price a food stuff neither. Thiey heve about the same prices fir food all over. [?]

"An' he claned out Messina an' the Calalabas Islands. It wuz somethin' awful, the cutthroats thet usta ba thiere bafore Mussilini claned 'em out. Ya cun't go in thiere an' ba safe atall.

"Why gangs stiarted thiere from bafore the Chrastin (Christian) Era. It wuz about tame thet someone claned 'em out. Yes, I think thet in a lotta wiays Mussolin did a lot fir Italy.

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"Yes, I've alwiays noticed how consumption runs in families. I remimber how it usta ba in Ireland whin I wuz jest a bioy. Thiere I remimber how it got into a ciartin family. Thiere wuz a lotta bioys an thiey all got it sooner 'er later.

"One spacial one I remimber, an' how smiart he wuz in the National Schools. Thiey wuz somethin' laike the High Schools hiere.

"Well, this fella hed a great mind, he did, an' he wuz goin' ta study ta ba a priest. An' he looked sa well an' hed such red chakes (cheeks), but whin he wuz aroun' twinty-one, he got it, and he daied too.

"An' I knowed two powerful lookin' brothers in Lynn too. What powerful min thiey looked ta ba. But first one an' thin the other one got it an now thiey're both dead. Ya caint beat it. But one good place ta get rid a thet is South Africa. Cecil Rhodes from Angland wint thiere an' he got rich thiere too basiades gettin' rid a his consumption. [?]

"Asthma's another mean disease. But it's claimed thet if ya go across the gulf stream ya kin get rid a thet. A course ya gotta stiaay across awhile an' mebye mebbe fir good. I knowed a fella thet hed it so he could hardly breath atall an' he wint ta California an' stiaayed thiere quite a while. He got rid [of?] a it.